[Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil]

Sir, we have preserved our freedom, our democracy and our Parliamentary system of Government in spite of the odds, stresses and strains since we became independent. There were many internal disturbances and external aggressions as well. But we have been able to preserve our democracy because of the Indian people and the Indian leaders of the past and the present as well. Sir, we have built up some high traditions in this House. We have always tried to preserve dignity and decorum in the discussions in the House.

Sir, Rajya Sabha is supposed to be the House of Elders though I see many youngsters sitting here. I know and I have observed that though they are young, they are quite seasoned, they have lot of experience in their own field of work, they are quite mature in their attitude and in their thoughts and, therefore, they are no less than the elders. Therefore, I know, my task is not going to be difficult to control the House though there are many youngsters sitting here.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): You are also young at heart.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Sir, once again, I would like to thank all hon. Members. As you know—and I also know—they are very sensible people and, therefore, it will not be a difficult job for me to control the House.

Last but not the least, I would like to urge upon this House, through you, Sir, that Members would come and go, Chairmen would come and go Deputy Chairmen would come and go, Governments would come and go, but the dignity and decorum of the House would go on record to preserve and to mark the history of the Indian Parliamentary system. Therefore, let us rededicate ourselves to the high ideals and preserve our democracy. We have the fortune and we have the honour of being the Members of this House, of this august body, the highest body of our motherland. Therefore, the responsibility is more on our shoulders. I do hope, it will be possible for us to take this country on the path of progress, maintaining all these traditions and look after the welfare of the poor, the welfare of the country and the progress of all our people. Once again, I thank hon. Members for electing me as the Deputy Chairman of this august body. I thank them for the trust they have reposed in me. Sir, I will always seek your guidance in conducting the business of this House. Once again, I thank you all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now invite the Deputy Chairman to take the Chair. I wish you all the best.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Inquiry report on the incident of fire at Hotel Sidharth Continental, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Sir, on behalf of Shri Buta Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Justice D. R. Khanna Commission of Inquiry Report on the incident of fire at Hotel Sidharth Continental, New Delhi.

(ii) Memorandum of action taken by Government on the Report.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—3226|86 for (i) and (ii)].

APPRENTICESHIP (SECOND AMENDMENT) RULES, 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Labour (Directorate General of Employment and Training), Notification G.S.R.

No. 370, dated the 24th May, 1986, publishing the Apprenticeship (Second Amendment) Rules, 1986.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—3219/86].

I. State Bank of India General Regulations, 1955.

II. Subsidiary Banks General Regulations, 1959.

III. Regulations under the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the State Bank of India General Regulations, 1955, under sub-section (4) of section 50 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955. [Paced in Library. *See* No. LT—3255/86].

II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Subsidiary Banks General Regulations, 1959, under sub-section (4) of section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—3255/86].

III. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Regulations, under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980:—

(i) Punjab and Sind Bank Officer Employees' (Conduct) Regulations, 1981.

(ii) Punjab and Sind Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) Regulations, 1981.

(iii) Punjab and Sind Bank Officer Employees' (Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns After Retirement) Regulations, 1984.

(iv) Oriental Bank of Commerce Officer Employees' (Conduct) Regulations, 1982.

(v) Oriental Bank of Commerce Officers Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) Regulations, 1982.

(vi) Oriental Bank of Commerce Officers Employees' (Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector concerns after Retirement) Regulations, 1983.

(vii) New Bank of India Officers Employees' (Conduct) Regulations, 1982.

(vii) New Bank of India Officers Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) Regulations, 1982.

(ix) New Bank of India Officers Employees' (Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector concerns after Retirement) Regulations, 1984.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT—3255/86 for (i) to ix)].

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Krishna Kumar.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): On behalf of Shri Krishna Kumar...

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh): Where is Mr. Krishna Kumar? Has the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs been authorised?

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): What is that? Where is Mr. Krishna Kumar?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will proceed to the other item. Statement of the Public Accounts Committee.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Krishna Kumar was supposed to be here.

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): Why is the Minister absent at the time of calling his name? So many times we have raised this question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There had been no space. That is why... (*Interruptions*). Let us proceed to the next item.

SHRI K. MOHANAN: We would like to have explanation as to why the Ministers were absent.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): He should have authorised somebody.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him come and then he will explain.

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (श्री भजन लाल) : उपसभापति महोदया, मेरा आपसे एक सुझाव है । मैं ऐसा समझता हूं कि यह ठीक है कि प्रथा यह है कि संबंधित मंत्री को यहां पर टेबिल पर पेपर ले कर आना चाहिये लेकिन अगर मिनिस्टर हाजिर नहीं है तो कैबिनेट की जिम्मेदारी सामूहिक है और पार्लियामेंट . . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: No, no.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): It is not the Haryana Assembly.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: You have no authority at all. (*Interruptions*). Madam, I am on a point of order. Mr. Bhajan Lal is a Minister. Whatsoever he has said is totally unparliamentary. This shows his ignorance (*Interruptions*.) It should be taken out of the record.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is nothing like unparliamentary. (*Interruptions*). He just wanted so give his views. Now I proceed to the other item.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Your first task would be to take his explanation and admonish him. (*Interruptions*).

STATEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following statements (in English and Hindi):

(i) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of 17th Report of the Committee (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Track Fittings.

(ii) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of sixty-second Report on the Committee (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Delhi Development Authority.

(iii) Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of 198th Report of the Committee (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Delay in Disposal of Fired Cartridge cases of High calibre.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill 1986

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the povisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 1986, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th November, 1986.

2. The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India."

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE AGRICULTURAL AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): Madam, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (4) of section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products